Ecuador Itinerary (in progress) Dec. 28 (Saturday) to Jan. 7 (Tues.) 2024-2025

**Saturday Dec. 28th:** Delta/LATAM Flight #?? dep MCI @ **10:35 am** – arr 1:36 pm ATL

Atlanta lay over ~2h 15m Delta/Latam flight #630 dep ATL ~**3:51 pm** arr **9:09pm** Quito $595

Go thru customs 1 hr. and find taxi to Hotel Tababela Land (~5 mi south) ~$55 Arr. ~10:30pm?

**Sunday Dec. 29t::** Breakfast included. Bird in yard. Targets include Eared Dove, Sparkling Violetear, Blue

&white Swallow, Great Thrush, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Saffron Finch. **Shuttle at ~9am** to

Cotacachi(~2.5hr $70.) Meet Marisol. Think ahead for New Year’s Eve. If you want something to

Drink (beer, wine, Champagne, liquor etc.) this is your best time to get it. Probably eat there or en route to Finca Organica San Antonio (FOSA). May have time to explore the grounds and banana feeder. Supper at FOSA. **Night at FOSA**. Check for Com. Potoo and owls after dark. Private room with bath, flushing toilet, hot water shower.

**Monday Dec. 30th**: 6 am birding with guide **David Ruiz**($30/day.) 8 am breakfast. 9 am walk to the

waterfall in la florida and bird on the way. Tour Sandra’s site. 12-1pm lunch next to the waterfall

at Norma´s dinner (a neighbor´s place who is part of the women´s collective Marisol is working

with. $5 each person for lunch) 3pm afternoon walk back to FOSA. Learn about FOSA. Exper-

ience coffee, sugar cane, temazcal, Rio Toabunche, tropical plants, local trees, citrus, avocado,

vegetarian garden. Birding on tour and watching feeders back at house. Targets for the day are:

Speckled and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, White-throated Daggerbill, Pacific Hornero, Ecuadorian Thrush, White-capped Dipper (river), Thick-billed and Orange-bellied Euphonia, White-winged Brush-finch (skulking under feeders), White-lined, Flame-rumped, Golden-naped, and Golden Tanagers (all at feeders), and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager. **Night at FOSA.**

**Tuesday Dec. 31st:** – 6 am birding with guide **David Ruiz.**  8 am breakfast. Targets: Azara’s Spinetail,

Golden Grosbeak, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Yellow-bellied Siskin, and Black-winged Saltator. Mid-

morning go into **Santa Rosa** (brief birding stop overlooking river) and then down past “Inca

Face”to **Apuela for lunch** ($5/person)**.**  Then 2 pm **Cabuya Tour** in Plaza Gutierrez ($3/person).

Fiber processing and look at all of the hand made items. 4:30 pm on lower to Willka Eco Lodge

(Good place for birding but hot springs next door.) Entrance to either pools $3/person. Possible

targets for the day: Plain-brown, Strong-billed, & Spotted Woodcreeper, Sierran Elaenia, Smoke-

colored Pewee, Chivi Vireo, S. Rough-winged Swallow, Tricolored & Yellow-breasted Brushfinch

Maybe dark upon return. 6 pm. Supper & **New Years Eve @ FOSA**. Check for Potoo again?

**Wed. Jan. 1st**  – Early departure to arrive at **Siempre Verde**(owned by Lovett School) by 6 am. Birding

with **David Ruiz**. Breakfast after birding at the lodge ($5/person). Go back down road for

antpitta. Possible targets: Leymebamba Antpitta, Spillman’s Tapaculo, Montane Woodcreeper,

Turquoise Jay, Three-striped and Russet-crowned Warbler, Spectacled Restart, and Masked

Flowerpiercer. Noon – lunch in Santa Rosa ($5/ person). Head to Campo Colibri. Hummingbirds

and optional zip line. Possible targets: Western & Andean Emerald, Buff-tailed Coronet, Rufous-

tailed Hummingbird, and White-booted Raquettail. Supper and **night at FOSA**.

**Thursday Jan 2nd**  – Early birding in yard. After breakfast head to **Otavalo** for lunch and **shopping** at

Ecuador’s largest outdoor market. **Private shuttle** to **Rumicucho Ruins**($100/person.) Target

birds at the ruins are Black-tailed Trainbearer, Cinereous Conebill, and Rusty Flowerpiecer in the

larger shrubs. Ash-breasted and Band-tailed Sierra Finch and Yellow-bellied and Band-tailed

Seedeaters out in the short, rocky vegetation. Next shuttle to **Mitad del Mundo** (Equator). N**ight**

**Local B&B like Casa del Arbol**. Supper at local restaurant like Calima.

**Friday Jan. 3rd –** Guide picks you early. On your way to **Mindo Valley**. Brief stop at **Maraksacha Reserve**

for breakfast. Likely targets: Collared Inca, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Andean Guan, White-

bellied Woodstar, Red-crested Cotinga, and Crimson-mantled Woodpecker. And we are just

getting started! Our goal is to reach **Bellavista Lodge**, one of the best known in Mindo. Possibly

new at feeders – Violet-tailed Sylph, Violet-purple Coronet, Empress Emerald, Purple-throated

Woodstar, Glossy Flowerpiercer and half a dozen tanagers. **Night at Bellavista Lodge**.

**Saturday Jan. 4th –** check feeders early before breakfast. Many options: walk roads up or down or local

forest trails. Many possible targets. Likely: Sickle-winged Guan, Crowned Woodnymph, Violet-

purple Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Masked Trogon, Golden-olive

Woodpecker, Red-billed Parrot, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Green&black

Fruiteater, Ornate, Cinnamon & Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat-tyrant, Capped

Conebill, Grass-green Tanager. Possible visit to **Bird-watcher’s House**. Photos of barbets, toucan,

hummingbirds, tanagers. **Night at Bellavista Lodge**.

**Sunday Jan. 5th** – Early departure for **La Paz de Angel** (take luggage). Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek. Walk

road primarily for swifts, flycatchers, tanager foraging flocks. Join one of the antpitta feeding

tours. Possible targets: Spot-fronted, Chestnut-collared, and White-collared Swift, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, White-banded & White-tailed Tyrannulet, Mountain & Sharpe’s Wren. After lunch head to **Mindo** (slightly down ridge from Bellavista). Several possible lodges. Supper at the lodge.

**Monday Jan. 6th** - last morning in Mindo area. Going lower down to Rio Silanche Reserve. This is a

small, private reserve but a host of new species. Possible targets Little Tinamou, Purple-chested

Hummingbird, White-tailed Trogon, Yellow-throated Toucan, Broad-billed Motmot, Orange-billed

Sparrow and a hundred other possibilities. Possible lunch and/or shopping at Mindo shops.

Head back to **Quito Airport** arrival around 5:00 or 6:00 pm. Dinner at restaurants across street

from airport. Be at **ticket counter ~9:30 pm** Flight @ **11:59 pm** Latam/Delta. ~#6360.

**Tuesday Jan. 7th** – **Arr ATL 5:20 am**. Customs, 3hr or 5hr depending on cost. Dept ATL 8:21 or **10:15 am**

Arr MCI **9:30am to 11:30 am** or so.